

which revealed a marketing plan geared to teenagers. As a result of this and other unsavory revelations about the industry, I feel the tobacco lobby has zero clout on Capitol Hill today.

This editorial clearly illustrates that the current debate over the tobacco issue is not one of who favors stopping teen smoking and lung disease. We all favor that. The question is whether we get there through legislation that specifically targets teen smoking without a net tax increase, as most of my Republican colleagues and I favor, or do we get there by passing a large tax increase on the poor, using the increased revenue to line the pockets of trial lawyers, fund bigger government spending on new programs, and create even more federal bureaucracy, as the Clinton administration favors. That is the choice we face.

[From the Maritima Daily Journal, Apr. 27, 1998]

BLOWING SMOKE

Newt Gingrich said the other day that President Clinton was insincere in his support of tobacco legislation, and President Clinton responded with a counter-attack. A better option was available to him. The president should have abandoned the insincerity.

This is not a question of who cares about children or who cares about stopping lung disease," the Republican House speaker is quoted as having said in a speech. "This is an issue about whether or not liberals deliberately used a passionate, powerful, emotional issue as an excuse for higher taxes, bigger government and more bureaucracy."

For those unkind words and others, President Clinton orchestrated a response in which he and other Democrats essentially called Gingrich a shill for the tobacco industry and accused him of being someone who doesn't much care if teens start smoking and eventually die from lung cancer.

But Gingrich spoke the unvarnished truth. The White House has been supporting legislation that would increase federal regulatory powers, abridge First Amendment free-speech protections and hike cigarette taxes that are disproportionately paid by people with low incomes. The revenues, Clinton has made clear, would then be used for expensive new programs mainly benefiting the middle class.

Some 98 percent of smokers are adults and the proposed \$1.10-a-pack tax would only cause an estimated 2 percent drop in teen smoking. Nevertheless, Gingrich himself has said he would support a tax increase if it would not be so high as to cause a black market in cigarettes. What he doesn't support is the way the White House plans to spend the money, and here's where presidential sincerity can be measured. If the president and the Democrats truly want to curb teen smoking instead of bribing voters with new giveaways, why not use the extra funds for anti-smoking campaigns? Or the White House could do what Gingrich favors and support using the revenue for health care costs.

Because of an escalating greed for revenues, the administration-supported bill sponsored by Republican Sen. John McCain may now be dead. But if the president should get his way, the government would become a kind of shareholder in the tobacco industry, counting on its ongoing prosperity for the continued financing of programs that might well grow in popularity.

Do the president's actions, then, demonstrate that he cares about saving teens from smoking and premature death, or do they demonstrate that he cares about political advantage?

It doesn't take a Ph.D. in political science to figure out the answer.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO COL. JOSEPH T. COX ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a soldier and a gentleman on the occasion of his retirement. Col. Joseph T. Cox will retire Friday, May 15, 1998, after thirty years of distinguished service in the United States Army.

Joe Cox was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps after graduating with honors from Lafayette College in 1968. During his career, he served as both a group and battalion communications officer in the Republic of Vietnam, as Commander of the 501st Signal Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, and as a permanent Professor of English at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In a nation that reveres diversity as strength, Col. Cox's career is uniquely American. As a soldier, he has mastered the art of warfare, earning a Ranger tab, receiving two bronze stars, and numerous other military awards. As a teacher, he has inspired countless young men and women to master the art of the written word and an appreciation for poetry. As a mentor, he has shown by example the importance of personal honor and choosing the harder right over the easier wrong. As a husband and father, he has kept his family at the center of his life.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Cox is a soft-spoken gentleman whose record of service speaks loudly for what is good about America. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service to country and in wishing he and his family all the best as he opens a new chapter in his life. May he fully enjoy the blessings of the freedom he has so ably defended as an officer in the United States Army.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 13, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

The Ninth Congressional District has changed dramatically since I came to Congress in 1965. Southern Indiana has retained its rural character, but our communities are now more closely linked to the national and global economies. Hoosier farmers and businesses now sell their products throughout the world, and we are attracting more businesses, including major corporations like Toyota and AK Steel, than ever before.

There have been many important players in this economic development, from entre-

preneurs to community leaders to local, state and federal officials. It has been my privilege to have worked with them on a wide range of projects which have helped make southern Indiana what it is today: a region with a booming economy, record-low unemployment and a rising standard of living.

During the 34 years I have been in Congress, approximately \$2 billion in federal grants and loans have been directed to the communities of the Ninth Congressional District. Those funds have served a wide range of purposes in promoting growth, development and quality of life for Hoosier residents.

TYPES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Federal support has aided development in six key areas:

HIGHWAYS AND AIRPORTS

Federal funding has helped transform our transportation system in southern Indiana. The I-64 and I-65 corridors have provided Hoosier businesses with a vital link to the national economy, and have attracted numerous companies and well-paying jobs to our state. I-65, for example, has become a magnet for growth, with many manufacturers and major distribution centers locating along the corridor. We are working now to complete the I-265 beltway in the greater Louisville area and make other highway improvements to the region, including construction of a new U.S. 231 in Spencer County. Federal funds have also helped with the development and expansion of smaller airports in southern Indiana as well as major national airports in Louisville, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis.

OHIO RIVER

The Ohio River has been a powerful force in our region's economy, transporting commodities and creating thousands of jobs. The Clark Maritime Centre with key federal assistance, has given a boost to our river economy. Even if Hoosiers are not in agreement about river-boat gambling, there is no way to ignore the economic impact of this new industry which will bring an investment of \$1 billion to the area and the creation of some 15,000 jobs. The Ohio River is also one of the most comprehensively managed rivers in the world, with 20 locks and dams and a network of flood-walls and levees to protect river communities. The federal government built this navigation system, and with my support, is modernizing the McAlpine Locks and Dam in New Albany and renovating flood protection facilities from Lawrenceburg to Evansville.

REDEVELOPMENT

Military base closings, factory closings and natural disasters have placed strains on some of our communities over the years. The federal government has helped these communities to successfully recover. I have pushed the Army to clean up the Jefferson Proving Ground in Madison so that it can be turned to productive use; helped community leaders in Clark County as they prepare to redevelop the ammunition plant in Charlestown; and worked with several communities as they recovered from natural disasters—most notably the flood-plagued Town of English, which decided to move to higher ground. Last year, for example, the federal government made a special allocation of \$6.5 million to help river communities rebuild after the 1997 floods.

WATER AND SEWER

Constructing water and sewer systems in our communities has been a longstanding priority. These facilities are necessary to improve water quality and to allow communities to grow. When I first came to office, the focus was on improving the water supply